

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/712,061

Examiner

Soumya Dasgupta

Applicant(s)

SHIBAMIYA ET AL.

Art Unit

2176

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 7/24/07.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-5, 9, 12 and 16.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 - * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

/Doug Hutton/
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2100

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Gary Jacobs on 9/5/2007.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the claims:

➤ Amend claim 9

9. (Currently Amended) A remote control apparatus for controlling a display apparatus, comprising:

a first remote control device;

and a second remote control device,

wherein the first remote control device and the second remote control device are physically attachable to and detachable from each other so as to be switched between a combined state in which the first and second remote control devices are physically attached to each other and a separated state in which the first and second remote control devices are physically separated from each other, and

wherein the number of picture frames displayed on the display apparatus depends upon whether the first and second remote control devices are in the combined state or the separated state, and

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wherein the first remote control device controls a first picture frame from among a plurality of picture frames displayed on the display apparatus and the second remote control device controls another picture frame from among the plurality of picture frames in the separated state.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-5, 9, 12, and 16 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claim 1:

The claim recites a **display apparatus operated by a remote control apparatus including a physically attachable and detachable first and a second remote control devices that can be switched between a combined state in which the first and second remote control devices are physically attached to each other and a separated state, in which the first and second remote control devices are physically separated from each other, said display apparatus comprising:**

- **a display unit;**
- **a communication portion configured to communicate with the first and the second remote control devices, and**
- **a control portion configured to change the number of display picture frames displayed on said display unit in accordance with whether the first and second remote control devices are physically attached to or separated from each other.**

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Claim 9:

The claim recites **a remote control apparatus for controlling a display apparatus, comprising:**

- **a first remote control device; and**
- **a second remote control device,**
- **wherein the first remote control device and the second remote control device are physically attachable to and detachable from each other so as to be switched between a combined state in which the first and second remote control devices are physically attached to each other and a separated state in which the first and second remote control devices are physically separated from each other,**
- **wherein the number of picture frames displayed on the display apparatus depends upon whether the first and second remote control devices are in the combined state or the separated state,**
- **and wherein the first remote control device controls a first picture frame from among a plurality of picture frames displayed on the display apparatus and the second remote control device controls another picture frame from among the plurality of picture frames in the separated state.**

2. The prior art fails to disclose every limitation of Claim 1 and Claim 9. More specifically, the prior art fails to disclose or suggest a display screen that is capable of displaying a plurality of picture frames and a remote control for controlling the display screen, wherein the remote control has two parts that are capable of being both physically attachable to each other (i.e., the “combined state”) and physically separated from each other (i.e., the “separated state”), and further wherein the **number of picture frames displayed on the display screen depends upon whether the two parts of the remote control are in the “combined state” or the “separated state.”**

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Claims 2-5:

These claims incorporate the allowable subject matter of Claim 1 and are thus allowable.

Claims 12 and 16:

These claims incorporate the allowable subject matter of Claim 1 and are thus allowable.

3. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Soumya Dasgupta whose telephone number is 571-272-7432. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th 9am-7pm, F 9am-1pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Doug Hutton can be reached on 571-272-4137. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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SD

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